

What is your vision for California agriculture by 2030?

My vision is for a more aware public to support co-ops of its local farmers. With fuel issues only looking like they will increase costs for Farmers via transportation, ect. I like to imagine communities embracing local farmers to save people on both the production and consumer side costs by supporting local farmers. A break up of the giant industrial farms and a step back to the past of smaller more family run farms with less waste and more of a sense of community that is lacking nowadays.

I also hope for a future that is more sensitive to the treatment of livestock. The continuing horrors of factory farms must not continue. The unhealthy conditions for both animals and people from animals pumped full of hormones and anti-biotics to keep them somewhat healthy because of conditions they live in that only breed death and disease. As well as the view that livestock should be treated with the same caring and decency that we treat our own pets or fellow human beings. Im hoping for a much more enlightened civilization that takes all these views into consideration when raising livestock. With hopefully an increased amount of vegetarianism and a priority in the best treatment of livestock to give them a proper and respectful life and not just being treated as a non living non feeling peice of meat that is just seen as dollar signs on its way to the abattoir.

What will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision?

The biggest challenge for this view will definatly be the public enlightening themselves more to the overall benefit in their health as well as opening their eyes to what actually goes into bringing their food to their plates. The public will have to look past its wallet and at the greater good for everyone in buying local fresh produce and meat from sources that raise they crops in a sustainable environmentally friendly way and treat their animals with care and respect. In general its just an awareness issue, that I think has slowly started amoung people nowadays with the increase in organicy grown food. I would like to see the state of California pass laws that help out smaller farmers and also establish stricter animal welfare legislature.

In 2030, how has the public perception of agriculture changed?

The public now realizes that resources are limited in ways they didnt think about in 2008. They are aware that minimizing waste and supporting environmentally friendly products are the way to save ourselves from our own destructive means. Theyre more enlightened to the plight of animals as livestock and support more humane farms. Vegetarianism and Veganism are now a more mainstream way of dietary lifestyles.

What is a "must have" in an Ag Vision for California?

Getting the population to open their eyes to the process that brings food from the farm to their plates. Knowing what theyre supporting every time they buy from cetain farms. And getting them to actually give a damn about the world around them that they cant see in everyday life.

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